

**SCOTTISH
ANARCHIST**

No.1

September 1994

**SUPPORT THE EDINBURGH
UNEMPLOYED WORKERS CENTRE**

**March from Barony Street, Broughton, Edinburgh
Saturday 10th October at 2pm**

FIGHT THE POWER!

Most of the Criminal Injustice Bill is likely to become law in Scotland by October 1994. The government, media and some liberal protest groups are highlighting that it is only a clampdown against several marginalised lifestyles - principally travellers/gypsies, squatters, hunt saboteurs, and free festival/rave goers, which of course it is - and these groups need all the help they can get in combatting it. But the main plank of the Bill goes much, much further.

Most of the Bill is concerned with attacking everyone's few remaining 'civil rights' and criminalising all direct action and unauthorised demonstrations, particularly against pickets and road protesters - even hillwalkers. Some of the main effects will be new police stop and search powers, an end of the right to silence, the introduction of plea bargaining, exclusion zones and new aggravated trespass and paranoid "anti-terrorist" laws.

Most important we must recognise the class nature of this legislation. It will be overwhelmingly targeted at the already criminalised working class. Few liberal protest tactics are going to work now before the Bill; obviously Labour, the Liberals and SNP don't oppose it. Ignore politicians and the parasite authoritarian left. *We must organise now to make this act unworkable through mass defiance and direct action similar to the popular solidarity against the poll tax.*

**Be on the demo -
September 10th, Edinburgh**

**Contact: Glasgow Anarchists and
Southsiders Against the CJB, PO
Box 1008, G42 8AA**

**Scottish Network against the CJB
Benefit: September 9th, 13th Note
downstairs**



London demonstration at Downing Street gates
against the Criminal Justice Bill

Who We Are

Anarchists, libertarian socialists and autonomous revolutionaries in Scotland have formed a federation. The Scottish Federation of Anarchists will increase contacts within Scotland and aims to increase the knowledge of anarchists ideas and action within the working class.

The SFA - move over football bureaucrats! - at present links groups and individuals in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Falkirk district. There are also links with other anarchists/libertarian socialists in Aberdeen, Stirling, Shetland and other parts of the Highlands. It includes revolutionaries connected with Counter Information collective, Class War Federation and the Anarchist Communist Federation.

We have a wealth of experience including the Timex dispute and other

industrial struggles; claimants and unemployed workers' actions; community campaigns to defeat the poll tax, water privatisation, VAT on fuel etc; anti-fascist action to smash the BNP and other fascists and racists; the production of anarchist 'propaganda' including stickers (contact Glasgow); and individuals connected to Earth First roads struggles, animal liberation and non-profit use value in music.

One day conferences to assist co-ordination of action and mutual aid are held every two months. To date two conferences have been convened in Edinburgh, with a third planned for October. You can contact the SFA or get involved with local groups by writing to the National Secretary (SFA) c/o POB 1008, Glasgow G42 8AA.

SIGNAL YOUR SUPPORT

The Transport Secretary, defending the decision to pay the Chairman of Railtrack £121,000 a year for a 3-day week, said "If one wants high quality and the best skills one must pay for them".

So now one knows! One feels like blowing up the Transport Secretary, the Chairman of Railtrack, and the rest of the bloody hypocritical crew, so one does! This from the government which is screwing the signalworkers!

I attended a meeting in Dundee on 27th August which set up a Dundee Signalworkers Support Group. We then went to the City Square to leaflet and collect money for the strike

fund. Some of the people had been in the Timex Support Group. Several former Timex workers are involved.

In the City Square I got talking to a signalworker from Montrose, who I've been friendly with since we were both active in the anti-poll tax fight in that town. He told me that the strike was solid there, and that the previous week he and three of his colleagues had leafletted and collected £51 for the strike fund in Montrose High Street.

This shows the level of support waiting to be tapped even in a wee place like Montrose.

So far as I'm aware, the Dundee Signalworkers Support Group is the

first of its kind in Scotland.

If the dispute is to be won, the signalworkers must not be isolated. Set up a support group in your locality.

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The selective industrial action by signal workers organised in the RMT union and their new bosses, Railtrack has dragged on through the summer causing rail chaos.

This situation has been clearly engineered by the Tory Government and their flunkies in Railtrack. Public support has scarcely wavered, despite many attempts in the media to brand the signal workers as 'irresponsible'. In fact, it is public knowledge that the signal workers were the least militant section of the old NUR union and were slow to press their claim for backdated productivity to be recognised.

The dispute, as with those in the health service etc, highlights the creeping privatisation of former State enterprises and the intentions of the Tories (only watered down by Labour and the Lib Dems) to introduce market forces throughout the so-called 'service' economy.

The solidarity of the signalworkers has ensured little scabbing, apart from the managers press-ganged into service - giving rise to the question why are they so many managers free to do this extra work? Other railworkers in the RMT and ASLEF, the train drivers have remained separate from the dispute. This has meant that the militant actions seen in France, involving both unionised and non-unionised rail and airport workers isn't repeated here, as industrial action is subordinated to a public relations 'chess game'.

In Britain especially, the lesson has still to be learnt that workers solidarity cannot be reduced to union organisation. Workers need to link up across trades and jobs, to forge new connections with community activists and to re-establish a class conflict approach to workers demands not manipulated or distorted by the needs of organisations such as unions and parties. They are intent to 'represent' a case and negotiate within the game of productivity deals, a cover for increased exploitation, essential to how capitalism works.

As anarchists, we support the strikers, and seek to encourage any developments which break out of the present subordination of a workers movement to reformist and policing aims.

• SUPPORT THE SIGNAL WORKERS
Demo: George Square, Sat. 17th Sep

Who watches the watchmen?

By the end of this year Glasgow will have joined the growing number of towns and cities with closed circuit television cameras. Four square miles of the city centre will be under constant 24 surveillance. 32 cameras will produce over 5,000 hours of footage every week, of Glaswegians going about their everyday lives.

Why? According to both police and the Glasgow Development Agency it's being "installed to protect valuable businesses" (in the words of Glasgow's Chief Superintendent). But this is not how it is being sold to the public. Instead it's the "cameras deter crime" rhetoric that's being used, and no wonder. Who really cares if *Marks and Sparks* gets tanned?

Crimewatch Glasgow?

But do cameras reduce crime against people? Yes and no. Most areas covered by cameras do see a fall in crime (but they never totally stop it). But crime rises elsewhere. In Hexham, crime fell by 17% in the area covered by cameras but rose by 12% outside that area. In Airdrie crime fell in the town centre, but serious crime rose in Airdrie as a whole.

Is it accepting that as long as violence and robbery happen in the schemes then it's okay? According to the Regional Council, the police and the owners of "valuable" property, the answer is YES!

1994 or 1984?

The cameras are just the latest in a long line of technology that aims to keep people tracked. They mark a big step towards continual surveillance, the acceptance that the state is entitled to watch our every move.

But surely only the "guilty" need fear it? And who determines "guilt"? Those who control the technology - the cops and the secret services. The Guildford Four and Birmingham Six show that innocence is no defence. If only the "guilty" need fear the cameras then why not one in every street? Every home? Will Glasgow's 1994 turn into Orwell's 1984?

Those who control the cameras determine their use. They will be abused. The technology is an abuse in itself. If £1 million (the cameras' cost for the first three years) is to be spent then spend it on tackling the social roots of crime. The cameras will not stop crime, only move it to your doorstep.

All that will happen is the state getting even more power, one more form of control over the individual and class resistance. They must be stopped. If the SFA has anything to do with it, they will be!

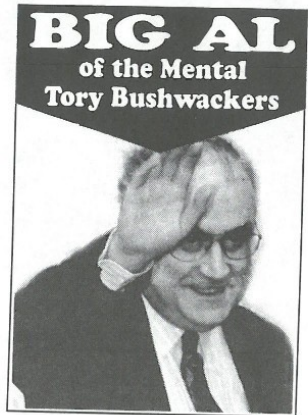
McLibel 2

The McLibel 2 are activists who are being sued by the giant McDonalds Hamburgers Ltd. for telling the truth. They distributed leaflets describing business practices of McDonalds in Central America i.e. evicting peasants from land to feed cattle for their so called restaurants in the USA and the environmental impact of such a policy, and for this a multi-million pound international corporation has seen fit to drag them through the courts. Not only have they been kept from enjoying a normal life by these bullying tactics but they have been told they cannot bring expert witnesses into court to back up their case.

Now this may not seem a big deal to you, it may be an issue you care nothing about, but to me the issue is more than the environmental one which was the concern of the McLibel 2. It is the way that a multinational aided by the state is being allowed to attack basic freedom of speech. So help stamp out bullying now - buy a kabab, buy chips, buy pakora, buy a pizza but don't buy a McDonalds. Help stamp out bullying today.

Defend the Road Protesters
DEMO SAT 25th FEBRUARY
 at NOON
 GEORGE SQUARE
 Organised by Scottish Alliance Against The Bill

AXE THE POLITICIANS!



BIG AL
 of the Mental
 Tory Bushwackers

Isn't it great, all this fuss about Allan Stewart, the Tory M.P. for Eastwood, supporter of motorways and ex-Scottish Office Minister. This 'brave' Tory stalwart who dared to walk on the wild side. Flanked by Wimpey officials, Stewart, reeking from drink, ventured towards the new M77 camp near Mearns village.

NEW LABOUR, SAME HYPOCRISY!

Tony Blair, the moderniser of the Labour Party and JFK of British politics has a barrister wife, Cherie Booth. Thwarted in her own ambition 10 years ago to also become an M.P., Mrs. Blair, practising under Booth, like many other Labourites is knee deep in the cesspool of the legal profession.

One of her best money-earners is to advise Councils in England & Wales about the best method to recover Poll Tax debts. Her consultation includes how to target Poll Tax defaulters and jail them! So, next time you hear one of these new Labour toffs going on about 'social justice' and 'protecting the vulnerable in society' spare a thought for those jailed without access to legal aid by these caring Labour Councils.

He was greeted by a squad of onrushing protesters, and, scared shitless, picked up a handy pick axe, so he says, to prevent the (non-violent direct action) Earth First members from disembowelling him on the spot. The next day, it was revealed that his 16 year old son and a crony had also been out & about in the woods as well, the same day, and had been searched by the polis and found to have firearms in their possession.

This begs the question, just what did the Stewart family have for lunch that day? Perhaps it was that veal good factor that led to their brains being pickled by 'mad cow disease'.

Undeterred, we hear that the bold Allan will return once more to stare out these impudent protesters. But seriously folks, whether he's out looking to confront protesters or using his snout to suss out magic mushies, as an M.P. he should feel threatened. He should be held accountable for his actions, in promoting misery, in destroying the environment and our lives. All these M.P.s who uphold the law of

this system, strengthened recently by the Criminal Justice Act powers, should be subject to the anger of our class. Nice as we may be, we shouldn't imagine that this anger will always be channelled into non-violent protest.

We need to strengthen the mood of many ordinary people, evident in the miners strike, anti poll tax actions and recent efforts to halt the export of livestock lorries, that only determined resistance and direct action can threaten the power of the rich & those who uphold their laws.

- ★ Scunnered by the polite farce of parliamentary politics?
- ★ Sick of the lousy lottery of class society?
- ★ Is your drug of choice Grim Reality?

Then write to the Scottish Federation of Anarchists, P.O. Box 1008, Glasgow G42 8AA.

Name

Address

IT COULD BE YOU...



The Battle of the Beanfield 1986 ... The shape of things to come

The Criminal Injustice Act

Together we can crack it

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